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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Toshio Kitamura

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EXAMINER

OUSPENSKI, ILIA I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1644

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/26/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks, filed on 06/06/2008, are acknowledged.

Claims 14 – 29 have been added.

Claims 1 – 29 are pending.

Claims 3, 7, and 9 – 13 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected Inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 09/26/2007.

Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 6, 8 and 14 – 29 are presently under consideration.

The objections and rejections of record have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment and arguments, except as reiterated herein.

2. The following is a quotation of the **first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112**:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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3. Claims 1 and 4 – 6 stand rejected, and newly added claims 14 – 23 are rejected under **35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, because the specification, while being enabling for an isolated DNA molecule encoding a protein of SEQ ID NO:2, or comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or defined by the substitution language as e.g. in claim 1(c) or by percent homology language as e.g. in claim 18 or by hybridization language as e.g. in claim 16 when combined with the functional limitation wherein the protein is “capable of binding to a protein selected from the group consisting of SHP-1 protein, SHP-2 protein, and SHIP protein;

does not reasonably provide enablement for a variant DNA molecule or a DNA molecule encoding a variant protein wherein no function for the protein has been specified.

It is maintained that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Applicant’s arguments have been fully considered but have not been found convincing as they apply to the claims listed above.

Applicant argues that the specification teaches how to make protein variants that bind SHP-1, SHP-2 and SHIP.

In response, the claims listed above do not require that the variant proteins have any specific function, and thus, the skilled artisan is not enabled to use such variants.

Therefore, the rejection of record is maintained for the reasons of record, as it applies to the amended and newly added claims. The rejection of record is incorporated by reference herein, as if reiterated in full.

4. Conclusion: claim 8 is allowable.

Claims 2 and 24 – 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ILIA OUSPENSKI whose telephone number is (571)272-2920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen B. O'Hara can be reached on 571-272-0878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ILIA OUSPENSKI, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644

August 21, 2008